

Keystone Kourier

**Keystone Unit #092
Region 2 - WBCCI**



President's Message



Happy 2019 fellow Keystoneers!

Is 2018 over already? Seems like we were just celebrating the holidays at the Spinnerstown Hotel. Yes we were, but somehow a year slipped by before we found ourselves once again celebrating at the same place a couple weeks ago! Hopefully all of you had a wonderful holiday season enjoying family, friends, and life. Arry and I found ourselves celebrating with each other on Christmas Day for the first time I can remember as all our kids and grandkids were either too far away or visiting in-laws. It happens. Didn't let that stop us though as we wound up at the movies watching "Mary Queen of Scots", (a fascinating flick about a distant relative) followed by a great meal at our favorite Chinese restaurant which was packed, by the way. Our holiday luncheon was great. Many thanks to Jerry and Barb Hillegass who hosted and provided decorations. Barb even gave everyone Christmas ornaments that she made herself. Barry was also in the Santa Claus spirit, handing out portable clocks. Attendance was good with most active members present. In addition to Barb and Jerry, we enjoyed the company of Peg and George Spahn, Rick and Andy Pitts, Jody and Sue Dietz, Will and Karen Kushto, Howard Mergelkamp, Don Harrington, Barry Heckenswiler, Sharon Fitzgerald, and one of our new couples, Linda and Chuck Chowns. Unfortunately, Arry Mergelkamp, Phyllis Harrington, and Lesley Heckenswiler weren't feeling well enough to attend and Wayne Fitzgerald had to work. (I remember those days.)

It was nice getting to know Linda and Chuck. They are new full timers, based nearby but living in their rig all over the country. They've moved from flying and boating to Airstream glamping which they are enjoying. We hope their travels bring them back home once in a while so they can see what Keystone camping is all about!

We Keystoneers shared in the Christmas spirit by donating an impressive number of new toys and stuffed animals to a charitable organization named Pennridge FISH, aka Pennridge Fellowship In Serving Humanity. Thanks to Barry and Lesley for delivering the toys to FISH.

In addition to eating, drinking and being merry, we made progress in developing our activity schedule for 2019. Due to a conflict with the Albuquerque Balloon Festival which several of our group plan to attend, we moved the "Exploring Central PA" Caravan to the August 8 or August 15 time slot to replace the "Exploring Western PA" caravan which we will defer for now. Alternative plans for an October event for those not going West will be developed. The current activity calendar is attached.

Howard Mergelkamp

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Feb 2, Noon

Valentine Lunch at Kushto's
- 114 Flagstaff Rd,
Philadelphia (215-266-2410)
(snow date Sat Feb 9)

Saturday, Mar 9, Noon

Spring Lunch and exec
comm meeting at Pitts' -
930 Stoney Run Dr, West
Chester (610-793-9262)
(snow date Sat Mar 16)

April 26 - 28

Maintenance Rally

Joint rally with DelMarVa
and Mid-Atlantic units.
Centreville, MD

May 3 - 5

Opener Rally

Joint rally with Central Penn
and Penn-Lehigh units at
Lum's Pond St. Pk.
Bear, DE

Stay Connected

Keystone on the web
<http://keystone.wbcci.net/>



Follow us on Facebook
[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/KeystoneUnit/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeystoneUnit/)

December Luncheon

Barb & Jerry Hillegass hosted a wonderful luncheon at the Spinnerstown Inn complete with homemade ornaments (thanks Barb!) and vintage Airstream travel clocks (thanks Barry!). New members



Chuck & Linda Chowns joined us and were welcomed into the unit by all. Also in attendance were Sue & Jody Dietz, Sharon Fitzgerald, Barry Heckenswiler, Don



Harrington, Karen & Will Kushto, Howard Mergelkamp, Andy & Rick Pitts and Peg &

George Spahn. Howard worked through the upcoming activity schedule a bit more (see the last page for the updated version, but most time was spent enjoying the fellowship of friends, and the Spinnerstown food.

Thanks to all for your generous gifts which Barry delivered to FISH (Fellowship in Serving Humanity) in Perkasie for distribution to youngsters this holiday season.



2019 Officers

President

Howard Mergelkamp

1st Vice President

Jody Dietz

2nd Vice President

Don Harrington

Treasurer

Rick Pitts

Secretary

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Barry Heckenswiler

2 Year Trustee

Andy Pitts

Legislative

Jody Dietz

Membership

Don Harrington

Sunshine

Karen Kushto

Unit Supplies

Karen Kushto

Historian

Caryle Brayton

Kourier – Web Pages

Andy & Rick Pitts

Introducing:

It's a pleasure to introduce our new affiliate members to the unit:



Chris & Carey Boland, #1079
Hailing from Lititz, PA, they are
Central Penn members.
Actually Carey is the CP President!

We look forward to meeting and greeting at upcoming luncheons and rallies!

Upcoming Rally Fun:

Yeah, yeah, yeah – they are listed below, but let's enjoy planning for some great spring outings now!

Set your calendar:

Joint Maintenance Rally with DelMarVa and MAU in Centreville, MD the weekend of April 26 – 28. DelMarVa is coordinating, and as we learn more we will send it along.

Eastern PA Opener with Central Penn and Penn-Lehigh at Lum's Pond State Park, Bear, DE the weekend of May 3-5. Book now as sites are going fast (this is the same weekend as NASCAR event in Dover). This promises to be a fun weekend with rigs from our unit, Central Penn, Penn-Lehigh, MidAtlantic, DelMarVa and more. Doggy night on Friday, customary Keystone breakfasts and more!!!

Region 2 Rally at nearby Biglerville Fairgrounds the extended weekend of June 6 – 9. Rally coupon on unit website.

62nd International Rally – this year in nearby Doswell, VA. More than 600 rigs registered already so book your inclusion at <https://wbcci.org/home/caravans/rallies/international-rally/2019-doswell-va/doswell-registration>

Sunshine Report

Thanks to all who offered to take on the duties of Sunshine coordinator. It is a pleasure to welcome Karen Kushto as the new coordinator. Having served as president and taking on numerous duties for the unit over the past years, Karen brings the thoughtful depth of membership and caring spirit to carry on the kind approach left by Peg as she steps down.



We are pleased to advise that both Phyllis Harrington and Lesley Heckenswiler have recovered from the stomach viruses that kept them from the December luncheon, and that Arry Mergelkamp is up, moving about and improving following the bad ankle sprain last month. Caryle Brayton reports that she continues to be Vaughn's (reluctant) driver while he's good natured about his situation and doing well with rehab until they get in the car...Peg Spahn has been battling health issues and is stepping down from her Kourier position. Peg did an amazing job covering the Sunshine Column. She'll be a hard act to follow.

Hopefully, Keystone Unit Members will let me know of illnesses, surgeries, friends needing a kind word and better yet, recoveries.

Updates may be sent to my email (kkushto@comcast.net) or cell (215-266-2410) since we're often on the road.

Best wishes for a Very Happy, Healthy New Year filled with Airstream adventures.

Keep the shiny side up!

Karen

Happy Birthday to:

January

Howard Mergelkamp (8th)
Tim Bell (31st)

February

Lesley Heckenswiler (19th)
Dan Keefe

Happy Anniversary to:

January

Phyllis & Don Harrington

February

None to report

Updated 2019 Activities Schedule

Attached is the Activities Schedule as it stands now. We have an interesting year lined up and we encourage all of you to participate as much as you can. We are still looking for hosts and travel ideas so please let us know your suggestions as soon as you can.

2019

February 2 (Sat) – Valentine’s luncheon at Karen & Will Kushto’s home, Philadelphia, PA (snow date 2/9)
Please bring appetizer, side dish or dessert. Thanks!

March 9 (Sat) – Spring luncheon and executive committee meeting at Andy & Rick Pitts’ home, West Chester, PA (snow date 3/16)

April 26-28 (Fri-Sun) – Joint maintenance rally with DelMarVa and MAU
Queen Anne’s 4-H Park, Centreville, MD - Howard Mergelkamp to coordinate

May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) – Eastern Pennsylvania Airstream ‘Opener’ rally
Lum’s Pond State Park, Bear, DE - Rick Pitts to coordinate

June 6 -9 (Thur-Sun) – Region 2 rally at Biglerville Fairgrounds, Biglerville, PA
Don Harrington to coordinate

June 6-9 (Thu-Sun) – invitation to join NYC Basecamp National Rally, Liberty Harbor Marina, Jersey City, NJ.

July 20-27 (Sat-Sat) – International Rally, Doswell, VA,
Howard Mergelkamp to coordinate

August 8-12 or August 15-19 (Thu-Mon) – Exploring Central PA, Keystone Unit Caravan. Visiting Carlisle, U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, Indian School, Harrisburg and others.
Coordinator needed.

September 5-8 (Fri-Sun) – Pennsylvania State Rally, Penn-Lehigh coordinating.
Keystone coordinator needed.

October 3-7 or October 10-14 (Thu-Mon) – alternative to WBCCI caravans to Balloon Fiesta.
TBD. Coordinator and suggestions welcome

November - Local Day Trip and lunch -- Date & locations to be determined.
Howard Mergelkamp and another to coordinate

December 14 (Sat) – Holiday luncheon at Plumsteadville Inn, Plumsteadville, PA;
Peg and George Spahn coordinating

Andy and Rick Pitts
930 Stoney Run Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19382



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KEYSTONE UNIT?

Contact:

President: Howard Mergelkamp

howardsan70@gmail.com

Membership: Don Harrington

pastordkh21@aol.com

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January 2019